

I am sending this comment on behalf of a fellow Video Interpreter:

I have to acknowledge the impact VRS has had on my own work. As an experienced interpreter, working since 1976 in this capacity, I've seen tremendous changes in the way Deaf people (those who are part of the Deaf Cultural Community using ASL) have interacted with the rest of society. An oppressed group for centuries, they've endured the isolation, neglect and general disinterest of their well-being by our Country. Changes I've witnessed in the last 28 years have led to a stronger democratic experience for this group.

The ultimate answer to the effectiveness of VRS is in its growth. Deaf people, hard-of-hearing people, late-deafened people, and even deaf-blind people are choosing this as the next logical progression towards their inclusion as equals in society. Their active embracing of VRS is indicative of its success from their experience.

The businesses and people they call also comment on the more natural, fluid interaction offered through VRS when compared with TRS.

Please ensure continued monitoring of its progress, support for the accessibility provided, and guaranteed funding of this still fledgling industry. The impact on the rest of America will be evident in the communications field's exponential technological growth in the years ahead. Imagine, contributing to the lessening of oppression of a group of disabled citizens while simultaneously enhancing our technological advancement!